

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 8, with the following paragraph:

--Some web sites, such as the site provided by OFOTO [at www.ofoto.com], enable a user to upload a group of digital images for sharing with others over the Internet and for providing digital printing services. This site permits a user to obtain an account using his e-mail address as the account name, and to provide a password and address information. The user can then upload a group of images. After all the images are uploaded, the user can select particular images for printing or sharing with third parties designated by the user. The user can return to this site at a later date, enter their e-mail address and password, and upload or print additional images. However, in all cases, each full resolution image must be uploaded to the web site before it can be selected for printing or sharing. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 , line 11 , with the following paragraph:

FIGS. 5A and 5B are diagrams ~~is a diagram~~ depicting service account information;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 18, with the following paragraph:

--The various portions of the fulfillment center 40 can be located in a single building or complex of adjacent buildings, or can be geographically dispersed over several sites in different cities or even different continents. For example, the electronic database 44 and the ~~album~~ production controller 52 can be provided by computers located in different cities and interconnected via a suitable digital communications network, such as the Internet. Furthermore, the electronic database 44 can itself be distributed over several computers in several different locations.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17, with the following paragraph:

--As shown in FIG. 1, the electronic database 44 is connected to production controller 52. The production controller 52 controls one or more color hardcopy printers 54, which can produce album pages 56 or separate hardcopy prints 58. The hardcopy prints can be placed in frames 68. The production

controller 52 is also connected to a CD writer 76, which can produce PictureCDs ~~76~~ 78 having digital images and application software for using the digital images. The production controller 52 can optionally be connected to devices (not shown) for producing t-shirts, coffee mugs, etc. incorporating one or more images uploaded by the user. The production controller 52 is also connected to an album label printer 60 which produces labels that can be attached to a standard album cover to provide custom album cover 62.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 26, with the following paragraph:

-- In block 104, a user service account is established for the customer. The information stored in the service account includes the information entered by the customer in block 102. This service account information will later be augmented by additional information listing the photo product options selected by the customer, and image identifiers that correspond to image files to be uploaded from the customer's computer 10 to the fulfillment center 40. FIGS. 5A and 5B provides an example of the service account information. The billing information (e.g. credit card number) and other sensitive information provided in the service account can be encrypted to prevent discovery and unauthorized use. The service account information is preferably stored as part of the electronic database 44 of the fulfillment center 40. Alternatively, it is possible for some of the service account information to be stored in the customer's computer 10, for example on the hard drive 20. For example, the image identifiers corresponding to images to be uploaded can be stored using hard drive 20.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1, with the following paragraph:

-- FIG. 3 depicts framed options that can be selected by the user. The options include selecting the size of the print from a plurality of print sizes 150, including 4" x 6" size 152, 5" x 7" size 154, 8" x 10" size 156, and 14" x 16" size 158. The user selects the size by selecting the appropriate print size icon (e.g. icon 152, 154, 156, or 158). The options also include selecting a matte style from a plurality of styles 160, including solid mattes 162 in gray, tan, and blue, textured mattes 164 in woodgrain, straw, or marble, and background image mattes 166 including clouds, water, or flowers. The user selects the matte by selecting the appropriate radio button (e.g. one of buttons 162, 164, or 166) for their preferred

matte style. The user then selects a picture frame style from a variety of styles 170, including modern styles 172 in white, red, and black, classic styles 174 in walnut, oak, and black, and antique styles 176 in gold and silver. The user selects the picture frame style by selecting the appropriate radio button (e.g. one of buttons 172, 174, or 176) for their preferred frame style. Of course, many more size, matte, and frame options can be presented to the user using various types displays, such as pull-down menus, scroll bars, etc. The selected combination of print size, matte style and frame style is then presented to the user. For example, if the user selects a classic walnut frame with a texture wood grain matte, the Internet server 42 would present to the user an image depicting this combination for the user to review.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 21, with the following paragraph:

FIG. 4 depicts album options that can be selected by the user. The options include selecting the size of the album from a plurality of sizes 200, including 5" x 7" size 202, 8" x 10" size 204, and 10" x 12" size 206. The user selects the size by selecting the appropriate ~~print~~ album size icon (e.g. icon 202, 204, or 206). The options also include using radio buttons 208 to select single-sided pages (e.g. print only on 1 side of the album page) or double-sided pages. The options further include selecting a preferred background style from a plurality of styles 210, including solid backgrounds 212 in white, gray, or tan, textured backgrounds 214 in wood grain, straw, or marble, and background images 216 including clouds, water, or flowers. The user selects the background style by selecting the appropriate radio button (e.g. one of buttons 212, 214, or 216). The user then selects whether to include a page number from a plurality of options using radio buttons 220. The options include no page numbers and several different styles of page numbers. The color, size, and font of the text used for the page numbers and image captions could also be selected using a separate menu (not shown). Finally, the user selects an album type from a plurality of album types 230. The album type is selected by the user by selecting one of the radio buttons for bound albums 232, 3-ring albums 234 (including 1", 2", and 3" thick 3-ring albums) or 20-ring albums 236 (including 1" and 2" thick albums). Of course, many more size, background, and album type options can be presented to the user using various types displays, such as pull-down menus, scroll bars, etc.

The selected combination of album size, background, page numbers, and album type is then presented to the user. For example, if the user selects a 8" x 10" double-sided album pages in a 3-ring, 2" thick binder with a marble texture background and a particular page number style, the internet server 42 presents to the user an image depicting this combination for the user to review.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 31, with the following paragraph:

-- As shown in the example depicted in FIGS. 5A and 5B, the service account information can include information for several products having different identifiers (ID) such as Product ID-1 (lines 13-25) which specifies a customized album, Product ID-2 (lines 27-34) which specifies a framed print, and Product ID-3 (lines 36-43) which specifies customized service prints. The album related information (lines 13-25) includes the page size, album type, and background style selected. It also includes page number information, such as the style, font, and color of the text, and the last page number printed. The last page number information is updated each time new album pages are printed. It can be used to automatically tell the user when an album has been filled, and a new album needs to be purchased. The album related information also includes a list of image numbers (line 23) to be included in the album. These image numbers correspond to image identifiers listed in the Image upload list section (lines 47-65) of FIGS. 5A and 5B. The album related information also indicates that designee #2 should receive the order (line 24) and the order status (line 25). The order status indicates that this photo product has been ordered by the user, but not yet fulfilled. Once fulfilled, the status will be updated to indicate that this order has been completed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 16, with the following paragraph:

-- The framed print information (lines 27-34) specifies the frame size, frame style and color, and matte style. It also includes a list of image numbers (line 32) to be used to produce the framed print. This image number (Image number 3) corresponds to image identifier listed for image number 3 in the Image upload list section (line 50) of FIGS. 5A and 5B, which is the image identified as /D/DCIM/100DC280/DCP_0017.JPG, the path name of the image on

the user's computer 10. The information also indicates that designee #2 should receive the order (line 33) and the order status (line 34).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 14, with the following paragraph:

-- The service ~~print~~ account information is stored in electronic database 44. Alternatively, some or all of the service ~~print~~ account information could be stored on hard drive 20, or could be duplicated on hard drive 20 of home computer system 10. When all the necessary service ~~print~~ account information has been captured, the fulfillment center 40 can send a message confirming the receipt of the service order.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 20, with the following paragraph:

--In block 120, at the indicated time, the digital images are uploaded to the service provider. The upload time is the time selected by the user in 116. In some cases, this is immediately after the user confirms the order. In other cases, the images are uploaded when the user initiates the process of shutting down their computer. In this situation, the images are transferred, and then the shut down process is completed. In other cases, the images are transferred at a specified time, typically at night when the user's computer and phone line are unlikely to be needed. Of course, this requires that the user's computer remain powered on, or in a low power standby state until it is "woken up", for example by the task scheduler program in Microsoft Windows 98. As the images are uploaded, the image upload status (lines 48-65 in FIGS. 5A and 5B) are updated to indicate which images have been successfully uploaded. In the unlikely event that the consumer needs the phone line while the image uploading is being conducted, the uploading will terminate. This can be noted by the user's computer 10 or the network server 42, which can automatically re-establish the connection at a later time, via the network service provider 30, and upload the images having a status of "To be uploaded".

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 21, with the following paragraph:

If the user has ordered framed prints, the digital images are printed using color hardcopy printer 54 to produce hardcopy prints 58. Each hardcopy print 58 includes the user selected matte border, for example the texture - wood

grain border specified in line 31 of FIG. 5A. Each hardcopy print 58 is then framed using the appropriate frame 68, for example the classic - walnut frame specified in line 30 of FIG. 5A. If the user has ordered service prints, the digital images are printed using color hardcopy printer 54 to produce hardcopy prints 58. The hardcopy prints 58 use the size and finish specified in lines 38-39 of FIG. 5A. Before printing, each digital image is overlaid with the date stamp as specified in line 40 of FIG. 5A. If the user has ordered one or more PictureCDs using the uploaded images, the PictureCDs 78 are produced using CD Writer 76.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 1, with the following paragraph:

--In block 124, the production controller 52 in FIG. 1 controls the shipping label printer 70 to produce the shipping label 74 using the shipping address of the customer or customer's designee provided in the service account information (FIGS. 5A and 5B). The shipping label 74 is attached to the shipping container 64 that is used to ship the photo product 66.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 6, with the following paragraph:

--In block 126, the customer account provided in the service account information (FIGS. 5A and 5B) is billed for the order. At this point, the financial institution having the customer's account designates such funds for transfer to the product provider or seller.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 10, with the following paragraph:

-- In block 128, the photo product 66 incorporating the first group of digital images is delivered to the customer or the customer's designee. The term "delivery" means that the photo product 66 can be shipped to the customer or the customer's designee by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) or by a carrier service, such as the United Parcel Service (UPS) or Federal Express. Alternatively, the photo product 66 can be delivered to a location such as the store where the retail kiosk 80 is located, where the customer can pick it up. In this case, the billing provided in step 126 can be delayed until the customer picks up the photo product 66, and the customer can then pay for the photo product 66 using cash, check, or a charge/debit card. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 20 with the following paragraph:

After the photo products are shipped to the user in block 124, the digital images uploaded by the user in step 116 can be deleted from electronic database 44 in FIG. 1 if the user does not request that they be maintained for long term storage and "sharing" via the Internet. The service account information in FIGS. 5A and 5B is retained, however, so that it can be used for subsequent orders by the same customer. This typically occurs many weeks or months later, when the user wants to print additional images. At this time, the customer again logs onto the Internet site and enters their name and password, similar to block 100. Alternately, the home computer system 10 can include a "cookie" created and stored on hard drive 20 when the user first accessed the Internet site in step 100. This "cookie" can automatically identify the user account. In response, the network server 42 accesses, from the electronic database 44 in FIG. 1, the service account information for the customer. The network server 42 provides a display for the user based on the Product ID information stored in the user's service account. For example, if the user had selected a classic walnut frame with a texture wood grain matte in step 112, the Internet server 42 would present to the user an image depicting this combination for the user to review. If the user had also selected a 8" x 10" double-sided album pages in a 3-ring, 2" thick binder with a marble texture background and a selected page number style in step 112, the Internet server 42 would also present to the user an image depicting this combination for the user to review. The network server 42 also allows the user to select new types of products to purchase, and to customize the products, as provided earlier in blocks 106 to 112.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 21, with the following paragraph:

--At the appropriate time, this second group of digital images is uploaded, as described earlier in relation to block 120. The production controller 52 then creates the photo products ordered by the user, as described earlier in relation to block 122. The production controller 52 then produces the customized photo products using this second group of images, and the service account information stored in electronic database 44. If the user has ordered an album, the last page number (line 22) in the service account information depicted in FIGS.

5A and 5B is updated to reflect the number of album pages that will be produced to show the uploaded images. If the number of new album pages to be produced will exceed the capacity of the customer's current album (e.g. if the print count will be 54, which is more than 50 pages for the 2" thick binder in FIG. 4), the user is automatically advised that a new album will be ordered to store some of the new album pages, and the page numbers printed on the album pages are numbered accordingly. In the above example, the last 4 pages (e.g. prints 51 to 54) are given page numbers 1 to 4 and provided in a new album, while the other pages will be included in the earlier 3-ring album provided as part of the earlier order.--